

# ***Carson National Forest***

***208 Cruz Alta Road  
Taos, NM 87571  
505-758-6200***



# ***News***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ignacio Peralta  
(505) 758-6344  
Dorotea Martinez  
(505) 758-6345

## **CARSON NATIONAL FOREST TO ENTER FIRE RESTRICTIONS**

**April 21, 2006, Taos, New Mexico** – Effective Monday, May 1, 2006 the Carson National Forest will join several other New Mexico Forests by enacting Stage One Fire Restrictions. These restrictions will apply to all areas of the Carson with the exception of the Jicarilla Ranger District.

The unusually dry winter coupled with the high density of fuels has lead to extremely high fire danger conditions throughout the forest. Since the beginning of March, the moisture in these fuels has been at record low levels similar to the conditions of 1996 when the Hondo Fire broke and quickly consumed 8,000 acres and 22 homes.

These extremely dry conditons and the potential for large destructive wildfires has prompted the Carson to impose Stage One Fire Restrictions aimed at preventing the start of wildfires based on human activities that are know to be high risk, specifically smoking, campfires, and fireworks. Restricted activities under Stage One are:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove fire except within a developed recreation site.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.
3. Possessing, discharging or using any kind of firework or other pyrotechnic device.

The following persons are exempt from this order:

- a) Persons with a permit that authorizes actions specifically prohibited by this order.
- b) Any federal, state or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
- c) Lessees or permittees within the restricted area are exempt from prohibition 1 above, provided such fires are within their residence.
- d) Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns and heaters meeting safety specifications are allowed.

Violation of these prohibitions are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual and \$10,000 for a group/organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months or both.

Our main concern is for public safety. Visitors are reminded that it is still possible to visit and enjoy our National Forest but don't forget to be careful and cautious. Make sure your campfire is dead out and cold to the touch before leaving your camping area.

For more information on fire restrictions visit the Carson National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson> or call 1-877-864-6985.

xxx